JUNI TAISEN: ZODIAC WAR

- The Zodiac War is held every twelve years.
- Twelve fierce warriors take on the names of the Zodiac.
- The twelve warriors each possess unique superpowers.
- The sole victor will be granted any single wish.

The Fighter of the Snake

Tatsumi Brother, the Younger

Kills for Money

The Fighter of the Dragon

Tatsumi Brother, the Elder

Kills for Money

The Fighter of the Rabbit

Usagi

- *Kills with Distraction*
- *Necromancist*

The Fighter of the Tiger

Tora

Kills with Drunken Power

The Fighter of the Ox

Ushii

Just Kills

The Fighter of the Rat

Nezumi

Kills Inexorably

The Fighter of the Boar

Inōnoshishi

Tsuchiya Yōko

- *Kills in Abundance*
- *Making It Rain*

The Fighter of the Dog

Dotsuku

Mishio Tōkai

- *Kills in Blue*
- *Mad Dog's Rage*

The Fighter of the Chicken

Niwatori

Kyaka Ninna

- *Kills by Pecks*
- *Eye of the Cormorant*

The Fighter of the Monkey

Sharyū

Kills in Peace

The Fighter of the Sheep

Hitsujii

Kills with Deception

The Fighter of the Horse

Uuma

Kills in Silence

!!
ACTUALLY, I HATE IT.
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I THINK ABOUT PEACE?
DAMN WASTES, ALL OF THEM. THE THOUGHT OF RISKING MY LIFE TO PROTECT THEIR MEANINGLESS EXISTENCES IS REVOLTING.
MY CLASS-MATES— PEACE HAS MADE THEM ALL GO SOFT.
WHEN I'M NOT OUT ON A BATTLEFIELD, I'M IN A NORMAL HIGH SCHOOL.
NO ONE IN THE WORLD HAS SAVED AS MANY LIVES AS YOU HAVE.
DOESN'T IT BOTHER YOU?
...
ACTUALLY, THE SITUATION'S WORSE THAN THAT.. BY SAVING PEOPLE, YOU TURN THEM INTO GARBAGE
BUT A DECENT AMOUNT OF THOSE YOU'VE SAVED ARE GARBAGE.

I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT THE MORE I PROTECT THEM...
...THE MORE I JUST WANT TO KILL THEM.
THEY THINK THAT PEOPLE LIKE US FIGHT BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT WE WANT TO DO.
THEY THINK OF WARS AND KILLING AS SOMEONE ELSE'S JOB.
IT WOULD BE EASY TO DISMISS SUCH EMOTIONS AS CHILDISH...
THOSE FEELINGS ARE A PRODUCT OF HIS AGE...
...
HOW THE HELL DO YOU COME TO TERMS WITH THAT?
SO TELL ME, MISS PACIFIST.

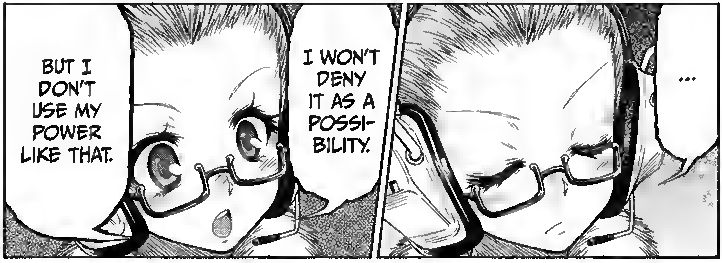
I DON'T MAKE PEACE WITH IT.
I'VE STRUGGLED WITH IT MY WHOLE LIFE.
THE BEST I CAN DO...
...IS GIVE HIM AN HONEST AND DIRECT ANSWER.
...
AH.
I SEE.
THE PERFECT ANSWER FROM A SAINT.
BUT TALK LIKE THAT DOESN'T REACH US MERE MORTALS.
DOESN'T REACH...
CHOP
...MERE MORTALS.

HH
BLOOD
HH
HH
HH
SNEK
SO...
YOU'RE PRETTY STRONG, RIGHT?
HUH?
WELL... I KNOW SOME SELF-DEFENSE TACTICS.
I COULDN'T SURVIVE ON A BATTLEFIELD IF I DIDN'T.
COME ON, YOU CAN DROP THE MODESTY.
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BLASTED THE FLOOR APART, RIGHT?
!!

?!
GUN
NOW IF YOU BOTH WOULD COME HERE...
EVERYONE ELSE— IF YOU EVER CHANGE YOUR MIND, YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME TO SEEK ME OUT.
DOOM

SOMEONE INTENDED TO BRING THIS ZODIAC WAR TO A SWIFT CONCLUSION.
THEY HAD A POWERFUL INTENT TO KILL.
IF I'D HESITATED EVEN A FRACTION OF A SECOND, THE BATTLE MIGHT REALLY HAVE ENDED THEN AND THERE.
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHO WAS SO INTENT ON KILLING US?
NO, I DON'T. I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO FIND OUT...
IT WAS ALL I COULD DO TO ESCAPE...
...AND TO GIVE EVERY-ONE ELSE THE CHANCE TO ESCAPE.
I SAID YOU CAN DROP THE MODESTY.

I BET IF YOU WANTED TO, YOU COULD HAVE FIGURED OUT WHO IT WAS.
IF YOU CHOSE TO FIGHT INSTEAD OF RUN...
...YOU COULD HAVE FOUND OUT AND DEFEATED THEM. TELL ME I'M WRONG.


...
I WON'T DENY IT AS A POSSI-BILITY.
BUT I DON'T USE MY POWER LIKE THAT.

FOR EVERY GREAT POWER, THERE IS A CORRECT WAY TO USE IT.
NEZUMI-KUN.

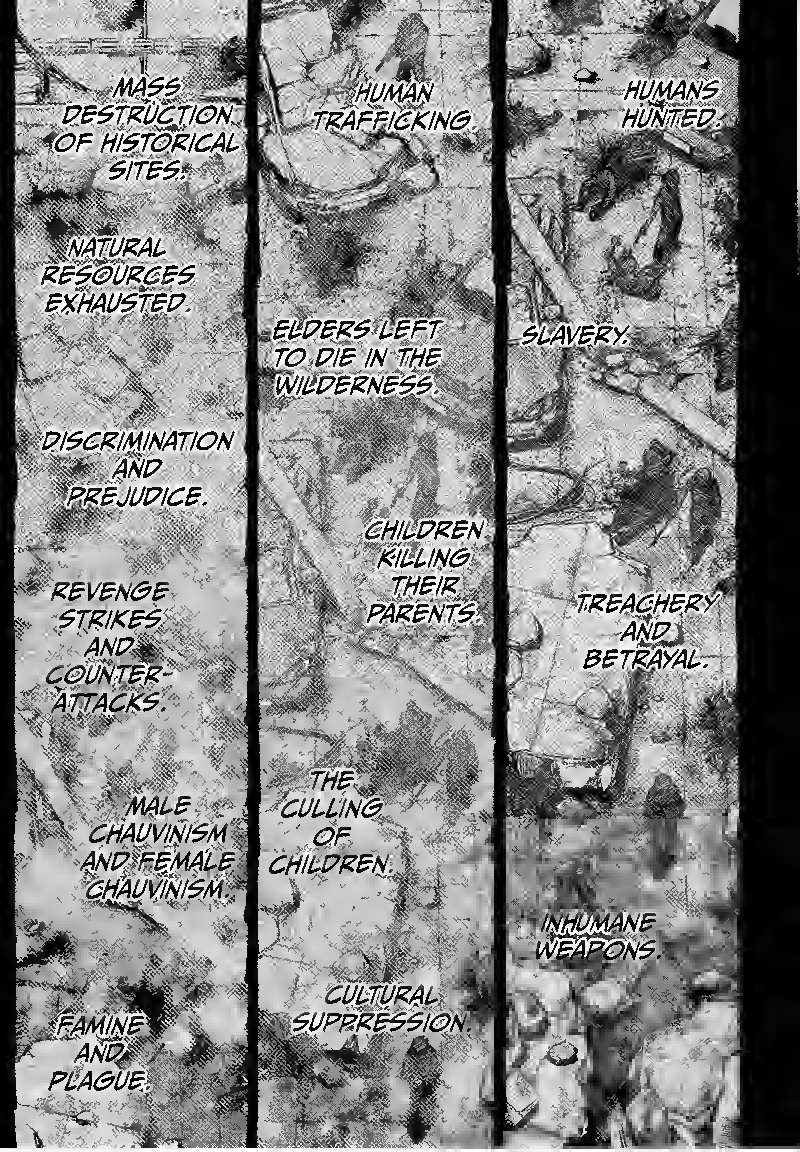
I THINK MAYBE WHOEVER WANTED TO KILL US HAD IT RIGHT.
HUH?
A CORRECT WAY
...
!!
...A WHOLE LOT QUICKER THAN THIS EXHAUSTING PEACE PLAN OF YOURS.
THEIR WAY WOULD HAVE ENDED THE ZODIAC WAR...
...AND INSTEAD ENDED THIS BATTLE IN AN INSTANT, YOU'D SAVE MORE LIVES FASTER?
...BUT DON'T YOU THINK THAT IF YOU JUST WIELDED WHATEVER POWER IT IS THAT YOU HAVE...
YOU GO THROUGH ALL THIS TIME AND TROUBLE TO MAKE YOUR PEACE TREATIES AND TO OFFER CEASE-FIRES...
WHAT REASON DO YOU HAVE TO SAVE LIVES LIKE THOSE?
I MEAN... THINK ABOUT WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE TAKE PART IN THE ZODIAC WAR.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
...

AND IF YOU'RE GOING TO SAY THAT EVERY LIFE IS PRECIOUS...
PEOPLE LIKE THAT— THE WORLD WOULD BE BETTER OFF WITH ALL OF THEM DEAD.
...OR THAT NOBODY IS TRULY BAD TO THE CORE...
NEZUMI-KUN...
...
WELL, THOSE ARE JUST HOLLOW WORDS FROM SOMEONE WHO WON'T SEE REALITY.

IF THAT'S TRULY WHAT YOU THINK ...
...THEN YOU'D BETTER QUIT BEING A FIGHTER RIGHT NOW.
YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES...
...TO FIGHT.
...
YOU SAID NO ONE IN THE WORLD HAS SAVED AS MANY PEOPLE AS I HAVE...
...BUT NO ONE ELSE HAS *FAILED* TO SAVE AS MANY AS I HAVE EITHER.

THE FIGHTER OF THE MONKEY— REAL NAME, MISAKI YŪKI.
DUN
BORN JULY 7. SHE'S 150 CENTI-METERS TALL AND WEIGHS 40 KILO-GRAMS.
SUUU
SUUU
PNP
GRRRP

THERE ARE MANY WHO I TRIED TO SAVE BUT COULDN'T.
I'VE SEEN COUNTRIES DESTROYED.
I'VE SEEN AN ENDLESS CYCLE OF SENSELESS MASSACRES.
PERVERSIONS OF JUSTICE HAVE BEEN SEARED INTO THE BACKS OF MY EYELIDS
MORE THAN I COULD EVER COUNT.
AND...
...MORE THAN I COULD EVER FORGET.


MASS DESTRUCTION OF HISTORICAL SITES.
NATURAL RESOURCES EXHAUSTED.
DISCRIMINATION AND PREJUDICE.
REVENGE STRIKES AND COUNTER-ATTACKS.
MALE CHAUVINISM AND FEMALE CHAUVINISM.
FAMINE AND PLAGUE.
HUMAN TRAFFICKING.
ELDERS LEFT TO DIE IN THE WILDERNESS.
CHILDREN KILLING THEIR PARENTS.
THE CULLING OF CHILDREN.
CULTURAL SUPPRESSION.
HUMANS HUNTED.
SLAVERY.
TREACHERY AND BETRAYAL.
INHUMANE WEAPONS.

I'VE SEEN IT AND SEEN IT AND SEEN IT.
I'VE SEEN IT WITH NO END.
I'VE STARED AT IT.
I'VE SEEN REALITY.
...
AND AFTER ALL THAT, I'VE CHOSEN MY WAY.
I CHOOSE NOT TO *END* WARS BUT TO *STOP* THEM.
I'VE PUT MYSELF THROUGH HELL...
...BUT I STILL WANT US ALL TO GET ALONG.

...
I WANT US ALL TO BE HAPPY.
...BOY.
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE MY HOLLOW WORDS...
GRIN

KRAAASH
KRUNCH
YEAH!
...

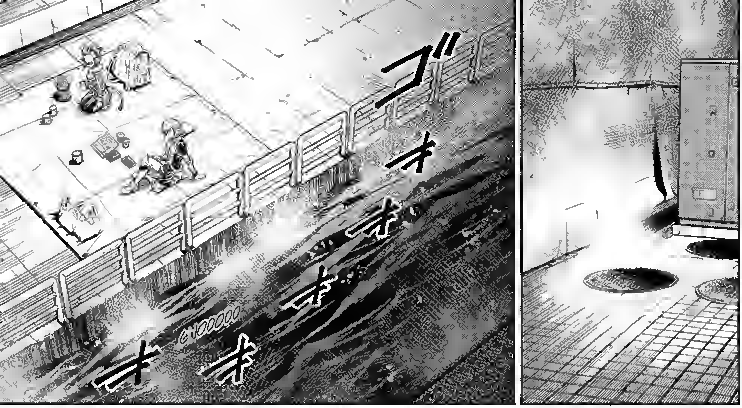
THAT WAS MY 1,000TH GANSAI RYU HA— BOULDER-CRACKING DESTRUCTION WAVE!
I'VE FINALLY PERFECTED IT!!
BOW
VOOM

JUNI TAISEN: ZODIAC WAR

CHAPTER SEVEN RAT, MONKEY

Manga by
Akira Akatsuki
Based on the novel by
NISIOISIN
Characters designed by
HIKARU NAKAMURA

SHE HAS SO FAR BROUGHT PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO 314 WARS AND 229 INTERNAL CONFLICTS.
AS BOTH A PACIFIST AND A WARRIOR ...
...SHE IS A HERO SECOND TO NONE.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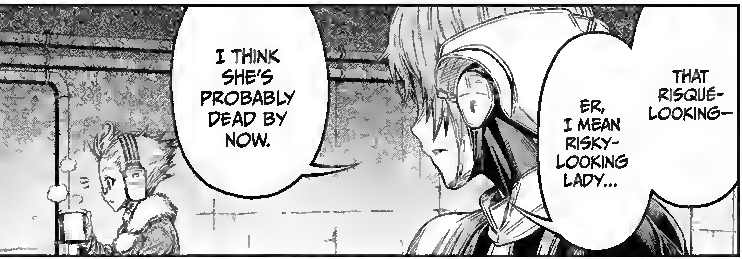
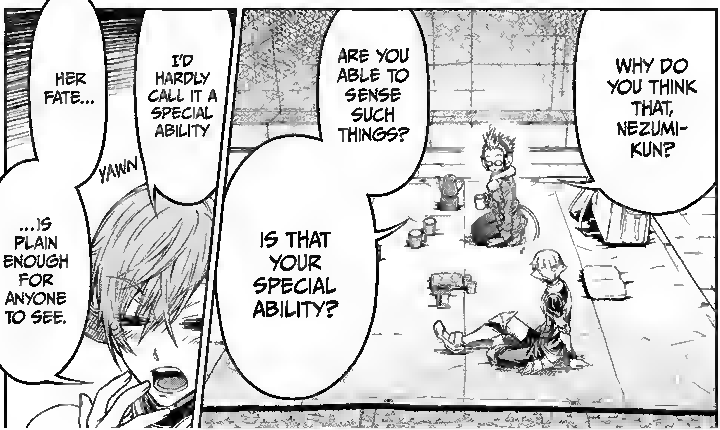
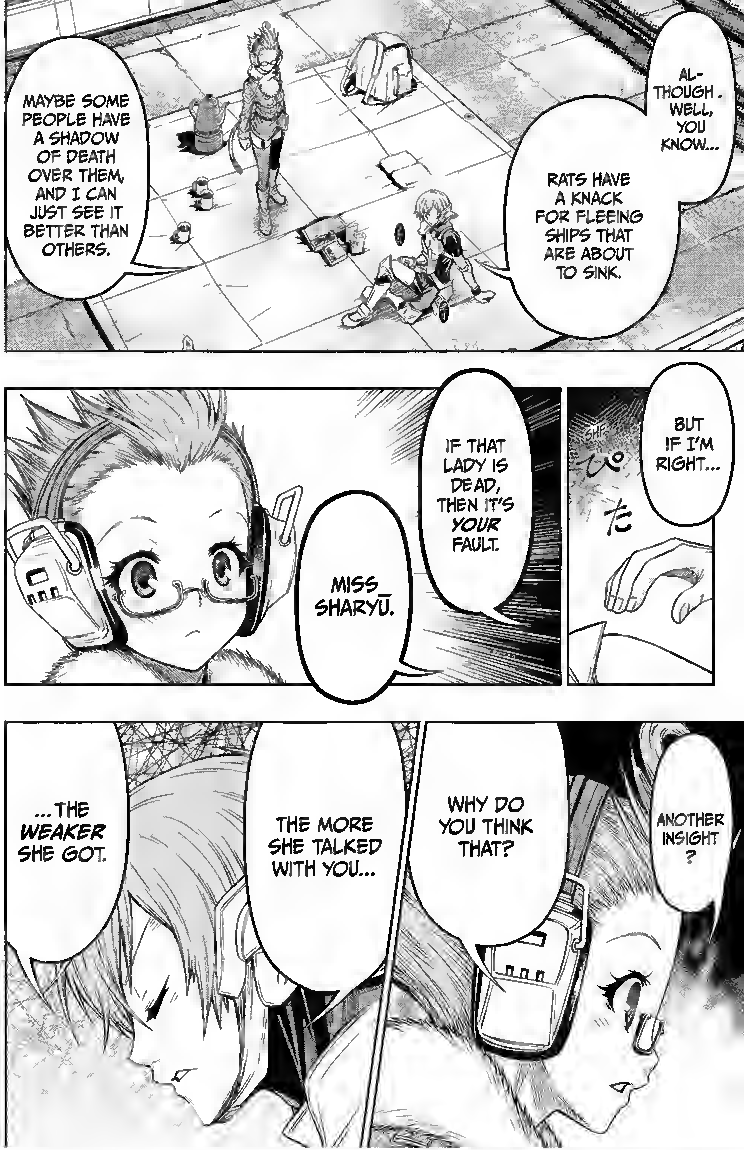

I THINK SHE'S PROBABLY DEAD BY NOW.
ER, I MEAN RISKY-LOOKING LADY...
THAT RISQUÉ-LOOKING—

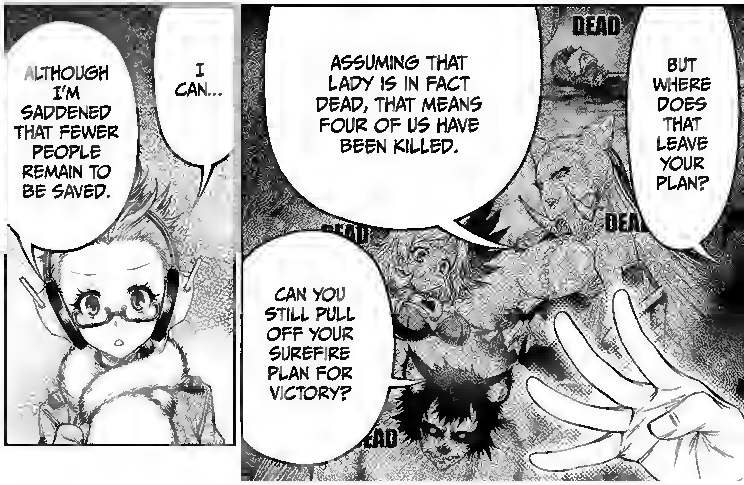

HER FATE...
I'D HARDLY CALL IT A SPECIAL ABILITY
ARE YOU ABLE TO SENSE SUCH THINGS?
WHY DO YOU THINK THAT, NEZUMI-KUN?
YAWN
...IS PLAIN ENOUGH FOR ANYONE TO SEE.
IS THAT YOUR SPECIAL ABILITY?


MAYBE SOME PEOPLE HAVE A SHADOW OF DEATH OVER THEM, AND I CAN JUST SEE IT BETTER THAN OTHERS.
AL- THOUGH . WELL, YOU KNOW...
RATS HAVE A KNACK FOR FLEEING SHIPS THAT ARE ABOUT TO SINK.
MISS SHARYŪ.
IF THAT LADY IS DEAD, THEN IT'S YOUR FAULT.
BUT IF I'M RIGHT...
...THE WEAKER SHE GOT.
THE MORE SHE TALKED WITH YOU...
WHY DO YOU THINK THAT?
ANOTHER INSIGHT ?

SHE WENT FROM FAINTHEARTED TO JUST PLAIN FAINT.
YOUR GOODWILL CHANGED SOMETHING IN HER. YOU REFORMED HER.
WHEN SHE LEFT... EVEN A NORMAL PERSON COULD'VE KILLED HER.
TO A ROGUE LIKE HER, YOUR LACK OF VENOM IS ITSELF A DEADLY POISON.
...
WASN'T HE SLEEPING THE WHOLE TIME?
OR IS HE JUST..
LISTEN, NEZUMI-KUN...
ARE YOU... TRYING TO PROVOKE ME?
I'M SORRY ...
I CAN BE A LITTLE SLOW TO PICK UP ON SUCH THINGS.

EVEN IF I CAN READ SOMEONE'S FATE, I CAN'T READ THEIR MIND.
SHIT
WELL, LET'S TALK ABOUT SOME-THING ELSE THEN.
IS THAT SO...?

I CAN'T UNDER-STAND HIM VERY WELL...
THIS GUY...
SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
AND WHATEVER ELSE HAPPENS, YOU WON'T BE REFORMING ME.


ALTHOUGH I'M SADDENED THAT FEWER PEOPLE REMAIN TO BE SAVED.
I CAN...
ASSUMING THAT LADY IS IN FACT DEAD, THAT MEANS FOUR OF US HAVE BEEN KILLED.
CAN YOU STILL PULL OFF YOUR SUREFIRE PLAN FOR VICTORY?
BUT WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE YOUR PLAN?
DEAD
DEAD
DEAD

I'M NOT CARELESSLY OPTIMISTIC.
PEACE TREATIES HAVE TO BE ADAPTED TO CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES.
!!
YOU'VE GOT MORE THAN ONE?
ALLOW ME TO CORRECT YOU—I DON'T HAVE JUST *ONE* PLAN!
IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE IN YOUR ASSUMPTIONS.
LISTEN, NEZUMI-KUN.
...
AND THAT I'M NOT GOING TO REFORM YOU.
YOU SAY YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT STOPPING THIS WAR.
I DON'T FIGURE YOU FOR A PACIFIST.
...
THEN WHY DID YOU AGREE TO JOIN ME?
WELL, I'VE NEVER REALLY THOUGHT MUCH ABOUT STOPPING THE FIGHT.
...
SO I'LL LEAVE THAT PART TO YOU.